

Docket No. 359999-35

Serial No. 10/814,390

Filed: March 30, 2004

**Title: ENHANCED BILL ACCEPTOR/DISPENSER
FOR VENDING MACHINES**

First Named Applicant: Peter E. Hand

Group Art Unit: 3653

Examiner: Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Confirmation No. 5402

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop **Amendment**
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AGENDA FOR PHONE INTERVIEW

Dear Sir:

I would like to discuss the following with you during our telephone interview.

1. I don't see complete element matching in the rejection of page 2 of the office action, specifically element matching of claim 8 to the combination of Jones in view of Ramachandran and Partkya. Specifically, the current office action and the prior office action do not seem to discuss or address at least one element of claim 8, namely the element:

“in a bill acceptor-dispenser accepting and validating notes, storing selected notes in a dispensable fashion for use as change in a vending machine transaction and storing all other received notes in a non-dispensable fashion”

2. None of the references appears to teach taking notes that are **inserted as payment** in a transaction and routing those notes to either a dispensable storage or non-dispensable storage. **Jones** doesn't dispense. **Katou** doesn't make change, only sends back the same bills to the same user, not available for use in a **later** vending transaction. **Ramachandran** doesn't make change

in a transaction. I would like to get your reaction to a limitation of notes being inserted as payment in the independent claims to more clearly distinguish.

3. I would like to clarify a distinction between my interpretation of Ramachandran and the reading given by the Patent Office. It appears that the ATM in Ramachandran is a stand-alone device that is of a size that it can be used inside a store. However, it is still a stand-alone device. When Ramachandran discusses providing change resources to a store owner, it means that the store owner would withdraw cash from the ATM and use that cash in the store register. It seems to me that this is distinct from providing change as part of a transaction. I don't find any teaching in Ramachandran where the ATM itself is configured to provide change in a transaction.

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